

appearance of the tympanum, the paucity of palatine teeth, and the total absence of an interdigital membrane on the hinder feet. These characters being either merely comparative or unimportant, were not considered by Bibron as sufficient to warrant a generic separation, and I have followed him in retaining the species amongst the *Cystignathi*. It was first discovered by Messrs. Quoy and Gaimard at King George's Sound, in Australia, where it was also obtained by Mr. Darwin. It is a beautiful species; the back being of a rich brown colour, with a pale orange fascia extending along the sides from the eye to the thigh, becoming bright orange on the flanks. Thighs and legs banded with rich deep brown and bright orange.

GENUS—BORBOROCÆTES. *Bell.*

Lingua ovata, posticè libera, rotundata; anticè subacuminata. Dentes palatini in fasciculis binis plùs minùsve obliquis, pone nares posteriores positi. Tympanum celatum. Digiti anteriores haud palmati; posteriores ad basin tantùm cute connexi. Glandulæ cutaneæ nullæ. Sacculi vocales (maris) utrinquè sub lingua nascentes.

The two species on which I have founded this genus approach so nearly to some species of *Cystignathus*, that it is not without hesitation that I determine on considering them as typical of a new generic form. The principal characters on which I have founded the distinction are the position of the palatine teeth, the form of the tongue, the concealment of the tympanum, the absence of glands and pores on the skin, and the connexion of the base of the hinder toes by a rudimentary palmar membrane. It is true that some of the species of *Cystignathus*, as that genus is at present constituted, agree with the present form in some or other of these particulars; but upon the whole they are sufficiently distinct; and in fact the genus *Cystignathus*, as left by M. Bibron, appears to me to stand in need of revision and dismemberment. The species constituting the genus now proposed, are however both new. The genus *Borborocætes* will probably stand, in its natural affinities, between *Cystignathus* and *Cycloramphus*, from the latter of which it differs in the situation of the palatine teeth, in the degree to which the hinder feet are webbed, and the comparative length of the hinder legs. The two latter characters are of importance as indicating a difference of habit; and we find that *Cycloramphus* has proportionally short hinder limbs, with the toes

extensively palmate, whilst in *Borborocætes* the hinder legs are much longer, and the toes scarcely at all webbed. The former structure indicates a greater power of swimming, and the latter of leaping.

BORBOROCÆTES BIBRONII. *Mihi.*

PLATE XVII. FIG. 1.

Dentibus palatinis in fasciculis distantibus obliquis pone nares posteriores positis; palmis bituberculatis.

Habitat, Chiloe and Valdivia.

DESCRIPTION.—Head depressed, the vertex slightly concave between the orbits; front (space included between two lines drawn from the anterior corner of the orbits to the point of the nose) triangular and distinct. Nostrils lateral. Eyes rather prominent. Tongue broad, ovate, acuminate in front, behind entire and rounded, the posterior half and the sides detached. Palatine teeth in two oval parcels, direct obliquely backwards and inwards, and situated at some distance behind the line of the posterior margin of the nares. Tympanum concealed. Body rather depressed and short. Skin smooth and without pores or glands, excepting on the posterior and inferior surface of the thighs, where there are some small granular elevations. Fore legs two-thirds the length of the head and body. The fore-arm rather larger than the upper arm. The fingers entirely separated, the third considerably the longest. A small tubercle under each joint, and two on the palm near the wrist. Length of the hinder legs to that of the head and body as 5 to 3, or rather more. Toes connected only at their base. A small tubercle under each joint, and a very depressed one at the base of the inner toe.

COLOUR of the upper parts fuscous, with a lateral fascia extending from the orbit nearly to the thigh, of a dark-brown colour, bordered with whitish; and another of an elongated triangular form on each ilium. Legs with transverse incomplete fasciæ of the same colour. Under parts grey, with numerous brown dots.

DIMENSIONS.

| | In. Lines. |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Length of the body and head | 1 5 |
| of the anterior extremities | 1 0 |
| of the posterior extremities | 2 6 |

Taken at Valdivia and at Chiloe, in a thick forest, by Mr. Darwin.